

News from Ed Markey

United States Congress

Massachusetts Seventh District

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MARKEY QUESTIONS FINANCIAL REGULATORS IN CREDIT CARD HACKING DEBACLE

Financial services industry must protect consumers from identity theft and privacy invasion

Washington, DC: Representative Edward J. Markey, the ranking Democrat on the Telecommunications and Internet Subcommittee and Co-Chair of the Congressional Privacy Caucus, has released a letter he sent to the heads of the major financial services oversight agencies in the U.S. government requesting information on the recent press reports of computer hackers obtaining access to approximately 8 million credit card accounts. The letter was addressed to the Federal Reserve, Comptroller of Currency, Offices of Thrift Supervision, Federal Trade Commission, National Credit Union Administration, Securities and Exchange Commission, Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, and the Commodities Futures Trading Commission – all Federal agencies that have issued regulations implementing the requirements of Section 501 of the Gramm-Leach-Bliley Act. Rep. Markey led the battle in the House to enact privacy protections as part of the Gramm-Leach-Bliley Act.

Rep. Markey stated, "Under the sweeping banking laws enacted in 1999, known as Gramm-Leach-Bliley, all financial institutions have the highest obligation to implement the strongest privacy and security measures to ensure that no single American's credit is destroyed or privacy is compromised."

"In this case, financial institutions seem to be responsible for nearly 8 million Americans losing the security and privacy protection they are entitled to under the law," Rep. Markey continued.

Rep. Markey's letter asks the regulatory agencies:

- To what extent were their regulated industries affected by this or any other hacker attack;
- What investigations or inquiries have taken place to date;
- What safeguards have been put in place to prevent future attacks; and,
- Whether any financial institutions policies and procedures are in conflict with laws or agency-written regulations.

"Financial regulators need to ensure that the financial services industry is protecting consumers from identity theft and privacy invasion," Rep. Markey concluded.

You may find this and all other correspondence at www.house.gov/markey.

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